

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 12, 14-15, 26 and 27.

Please amend Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 11, 24 and 28-32.

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with ~~TNF α -mediated~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF α -inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNF α and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNF α ~~*in-vivo*~~ with an affinity of at least 1×10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (K_a), as determined by Scatchard analysis.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with ~~TNF α -mediated~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF α -inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF α chimeric monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNF α chimeric antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNF α and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNF α ~~*in-vivo*~~ with an affinity of at least 1×10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (K_a), as determined by Scatchard analysis.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for treating inflammation associated with ~~TNF α -mediated~~-viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human at least one anti-TNF α chimeric antibody, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, said anti-TNF α

chimeric antibody comprising a human IgG1 constant region, ~~and~~ wherein said anti-TNF α chimeric antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNF α and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNF α ~~*in-vivo*~~ with an affinity of at least 1×10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (K_a), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNF α -mediated viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF α -inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said anti-TNF α antibody comprising a human IgG1 constant region, ~~and~~ wherein said anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNF α and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNF α ~~*in-vivo*~~ with an affinity of at least 1×10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (K_a), as determined by Scatchard analysis.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNF α -mediated viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF α -inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF α chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF α chimeric antibody comprises a non-human variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:3 and SEQ ID NO.:5.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNF α -mediated viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF α -inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF α chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF α chimeric antibody comprises an IgG1 human constant region and a non-human variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:3 and SEQ ID NO.:5.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the non-human variable region comprises a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:2 and SEQ ID NO.:4.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the non-human variable region comprises a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:2 and SEQ ID NO.: 4.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNF α -mediated viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF α -inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment (i) has epitopic specificity identical to A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045), and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNF α ~~in vivo~~ with an affinity of at least 1×10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (K_a), as determined by Scatchard analysis.
- 12-20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said anti-TNF α antibody is administered to the human by means of intravenous administration, subcutaneous administration or intramuscular administration.
22. (Canceled).
23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said TNF α -inhibiting amount of the anti-TNF α antibody comprises a single or divided dose of about 0.1 - 50 mg/kg.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23 wherein said single or divided dose is one selected from ~~the group consisting of: about a 0.1–1 mg/kg dose, about a 1.0–5 mg/kg dose, about a 5–10 mg/kg dose and about a 10–20 mg/kg dose~~ 0.5, 0.9, 1, 1.1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 mg/kg per day on at least one of day 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30 or at least one of week 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20.
- 25.-27. (Canceled).
28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~TNF α -mediated viral infection is associated with~~ human suffers from alcohol-induced hepatitis.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment ~~of Claim 1, which~~ is of immunoglobulin class IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4 or IgM.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antigen-binding fragment ~~of Claim 1, wherein said fragment~~ is selected from the group consisting of Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂ and Fv.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment ~~of Claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment~~ comprises a human constant region and a human variable region.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment ~~of Claim 1, which~~ comprises at least one human light chain and at least one human heavy chain.